

12 JENNIFER VEERAK: Hello, everyone. My name is  
13 Jennifer Veerak. I'm the director of a nonprofit group  
14 called HOME, Healing Ourselves and Mother Earth. We are  
15 going to be submitting very detailed written comments later  
16 on, and I will be addressing some of the local issues more  
17 at the Lone Pine meeting on Thursday. But I wanted to  
18 cover just some very general topics briefly today.

19 [ And I'd like to start by commenting on a  
20 feeling of discomfort I have with a large presence of  
21 the nuclear industry here today. I think it's great to  
22 offer alternative display space, but if you look around  
23 our area, we're also well-equipped for wind and solar.  
24 So if we're going to be advertising energy industries in  
25 government meetings, let's create a few more  
1 opportunities.]

2 I'd also like to say just not dwelling on  
3 nuclear power particularly, but there were some comments  
4 about how marvelously healthy it's always been. And  
5 there are hundreds and hundreds of studies to refute  
6 that.

7 If you'd like access to many of them, please  
8 go to our Website, HOME, H-O-M-E.org. You can find out  
9 about infant mortality rates, leukemia clusters. And  
10 many of them are at -- some of these studies were  
11 initiated at the nuclear reactors in New York state that  
12 were mentioned earlier.

13 I want to just touch briefly on some of the  
14 broader points of site characteristics. I'm not going

15 to address any of the rail material today. I'm not  
16 going to address the impacts that I think should be  
17 included in this document in a lot more detail about  
18 what truck transportation would do to our area south of  
19 here. I'm from California. I live within the  
20 Yucca Mountain watershed. It's very enormous. And it's  
21 largely within the state of California.

22 [On page S-23 of the repository document, the 2  
23 summary document, it states, "There are no perennial  
24 streams or other permanent surface water bodies in the  
25 region of influence, and precipitation and runoff are  
1 seldom sufficient to generate flowing water in drainage  
2 channels."

3 I beg to differ. I would seriously hope after  
4 20 years of scientific study the DOE is a little clearer  
5 on what our precipitation and our river systems are like  
6 in this area.

7 I've also found other comments and --  
8 particularly in this document that we've been seeing a  
9 lot of lately that talks about how do we know the  
10 repository would be safe, specifically states  
11 Yucca Mountain does not flow into any lakes, rivers, or  
12 oceans.

13 Well, on Thursday, I will be presenting the  
14 DOE with some of their own maps that shows the  
15 Amargosa River. It's the third largest river west of  
16 the Mississippi. It's quite extensive. It has its own  
17 conservation agency, the Amargosa Conservancy.

18 It runs perennially right outside this

19 building as a matter of fact, so you can go and see it  
20 later if it was still broad daylight. So I'm really  
21 disturbed by this kind of mythology that we're moving  
22 into here that when -- this project has had this history  
23 for a long, long time that when things don't work out,  
24 they don't meet the criteria for the Nuclear Waste  
25 Policy Act, we start changing things. I think losing a  
1 river is just going a tad too far. I will be helping  
2 with some maps there so we can find that river again. ]... Continued

3 [ It also makes assumptions that have been 3  
4 proved more and more fallacious as this project drags on  
5 through 20 years that this site is isolated from  
6 concentrations of human population and activity.

7 This area is the fastest growing area, Pahrump  
8 and Las Vegas, and all of that's moving toward the  
9 Amargosa Valley, very fast growing area for the entire  
10 country. ]

11 [ It's on land controlled by the federal 4  
12 government. This -- some of the land is controlled by  
13 the U.S. Air Force. And while "control" is the  
14 operative word, legal ownership, which will be necessary  
15 in the licensing process, cannot be proved. All of the  
16 land lies within the treaty lands of the Western  
17 Shoshone Nation, which was ratified in 1863. We don't  
18 hear a great deal about that within the United States.

19 In April of 2004, the U.N. Community to End  
20 Racial Discrimination upheld this statement and names  
21 the Yucca Mountain project specifically as a violation

22 of Shoshone human rights.]

23 [Yucca Mountain, going back to this first

... 2

continued

24 statement about the aridity of the area and how there is

25 not problems to be concerned about by water, we've seen

1 within the last five years the road into Death Valley

2 National Park, which is only 20 miles away from this

3 site at its north end, washed out for a year and a half.

4 We saw people die. We saw cars rolled like old soda

5 cans down through the washes.

6 The water here may not be plentiful, but it

7 can come in 10 minutes. It can come in 45. It can do

8 incredible damage. And nowhere in 20 years of this

9 study has there been acknowledgement of these kinds of

10 things. We have photo archives on our site going back

11 to 1943.

12 Again, it talks about this being a closed

13 hydrological basin. And this is true, but this basin

14 covers thousands and thousands of miles. It covers many

15 communities. It's not an area that we can just ignore.

16 There are people, there are animals, there's entire

17 ecosystems that live here. And I would like to see this

18 document being more responsive.] Thank you.